Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md. 20734
11/9/66

Dear Mr. Orlandox,

That wonderful design of nature, a day of 24 hours, I now find even more inadequate, for it leaves me not enough time for those very many things I feel I must do and for the never-ending new ones that provide a constant challenge. My efforts to meet them all divide me into too many insufficient pieces. But I try, frustrated by the growing fatigue and intellectual and literary lonliness.

My new book is done. It has been in the hands of a publisher whose silence is neither encouraging nor surprising. I have given him until Saturday to make me an offer that I will interpret as his final one. Thereafter I may have more newsfor you. I trust you will withhold judgement on a seeming immodesty when I tell you it will date everything else except WHITEWASH. The title is WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT! It is a shocking book. Shocking is not the word. I do not know the word that is applicable. This book does much more than I predicted to you.

I had to abandon WHITEWASH to itself to do this. I am satisfied it was the correct gamble. The book is still selling, entirely on its own momentum. That is a comfort, but it pays no bills. The "in print" figure is now 22,500.

Meanwhile, thexrecent announcements of the government also had to be addreseed. Friday, after a hasty but adequate investigation, the foundation for which I providentially layed in May and in WHITEWASH, I did a 4,000 piece on the transfer of the so-called important evidence to the Archives. There was no time to go over it because that night I had to attend the press preview of the TV show taped in New York the evening of the day we met and the early morning following. I sat in silence which watching the surgery that had been perfomed upon me, beginning with a tonsillectomy and ending with castration, sorrowing all the while that I could have better spent the time working on that piece. Monday I wrote one a little longer on the addition of the pictures and Xrays of the autopsy to the Archive. This one my wife has not had time to even retype. My agent in England, should your magazine be interested, has the retyped copy of the first and a carbon of the unretyped first draft of the second. I have a spare copy of the first but for the moment must hold on to it. I have engaged a typist to do the second and may someday soon have copies.

It may not surprise you to know that what has been made to seem an enrichment of our national treasure and heritage is almost without acception a miscellaneous assortment of trash, trivia and junk, and incredibilityfor any government, especially when the assessination of a former leader is involved and particularly with the dismal history of this case. It is a cloak behind which serious andx entirely improper suppressions are perpetuated. You will find this piece quite specific in enumerating just what stuff was included and just what excluded and the history and significance of what is suppressed and the guises under which suppression is denied. The record is unequivocal. What did not already exist I made back in May.

The sad story of the tainted film is another one of suppression, to which that suspicion all involved have earned by their behavior is magnified by new and unnecessary mysteries they have added, even arithmetical in nature. I am confident you know from the headline, without my comment, that this was a design for suppression. I detail this, with a lesson in arithmetic and an overdue exposition of the limitations of even untainted film. The best we can now expect of these Xrays and photographs, if we are generous enough tomconcede their authenticity despite the great number of unwanted unfortunates who have died in the past three years, is that they may show one less lie was told. They can assume no additional burden. This one taxes them past the limit.

Following the appearance of WHITEWASH II I will do a third article that I will not want in print earlier (this is an expression of my optimism , indicating contrary to what is fact, that I have reason to believe the first two will get into print in this country). There is a third aspect that I must address. Some of it is in a different context, really different contexts, in the new book. Most of the rest of the remaining necessary data I have in my possession.

My agent is Gordon Harbord, 53 St. Martin's Lane, London WC 2. He has sold WHITEWASH to Feltrinelli, whom outbid Bompiani and Albero.

By now you have gathered that I regard this most recent governmental imposition on our trust as a can of wriggling worms. It is, I believe, a measure of their desperation. It seems to have escaped editorial attention that in pretending to say something while saying nothing about criticism of the Report of his Commission, the President also did say that if there is anything wrong it is the fault of the then attorney general. If you did not detect this in his precise language, so careful in phrasing that I suspect the question was planted, I can send you a copy of the text.

These Rumors continue to reach me of apprehension among the former assistant counsel. That who are not apprehensive are without feelings or intelligence. They seem to be conferring by conference phone, to be considering symposia with "critics", and to be considefing other moves. It will accomplish nothing. We are getting very close to the point of entire exposure. The strange things that have happened would be humorous in any other context. Wesley Liebeler, who a year ago became the first Commission stoolpidgeon and conned the immature Epstein in unquestioned acceptance of the pap from his spoon, has waved a sheet and is now the fox hired to guard the chicken house. The University of California has established a "research" project of 20 students and three teaching assistants to do an "impartial" work on the Commission. This institution, like the press, seems not to remember this was the function of the Report of which Mr. Liebeler was a much more important architect than his public relations (including Epstein indicate. Imagine a professor who both sits in judgement on himself and on those who evaluate his work! And calls it impartial! And begins with the announcement of the decision that this impartiality will render, that he and the Commission were right!

Before ending this imposition on your time, may I suggest that the Manchester book will have launching troubles? It has tremenduous weight and pressure behind it right now. A fortune is involved. But it will be seriously impaired before it is published. I will not be surprised if the Kennedy's suddenly find it expedient to say their relationship with this book and its author have been widely "misinterpreted", that he speaks for but himself, that their sole interest, deriving entirely from the respect the late President had for him, was in having him employ his considerable talents in one version of the tragedy, that this in no sense means that they either agree nor disagree with its contents, which are entirely Mr. Manchester's, that they did not tell him what to say, and that above all he is not the spokesman for them or their ideas because they have, for personal reasons they hope will be appreciated, had nothing to do with the official investigation or anything that followed. If this does not happen, Bobby Kennedy's political career is ended. He has been placed in the position where he seems to be subsidizing and endorsing the unofficial whitewash of his brother's assassination.

Please give Miss Hollaus my best regards. I am looking forward to my next trip to New York, which I wish could be soon, and the possibility that she may again be able to offer me some of her delicious Espresso.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg